



British Wool – Sale Report

BW170 – 3rd October 2023



Key Points

British Wool saw strong demand in BW170 with both domestic and export buyers participating in the auction. Prices were 5% to 9% dearer across the board with better quality carpet wools such as Mule and Cheviot Cross building on the price gains we saw in the last couple of sales. Improved prices will be welcomed by British Wool's members but we still need to see significantly better returns to ensure that all growers present their wool for sale.

The offer amounted to 1,019 tonnes spread over 138 lots of which 1,004 tonnes (135 lots) was sold. Across the catalogue as a whole British Wool achieved a 98.6% clearance. Just three lots were taken back into stock, two of these were speciality types, the other was a lot of mountain wool.

As the season has progressed it has become apparent that the volume of wool available in the UK this year will be down by around 10% y-o-y. Lower fleece weights this season are the main cause (-8% y-o-y) with reduced sheep numbers compounding the pressure. Given this supply constraint British Wool's offers are likely to be held around 1m kg per sale over the next few months. Thus far British Wool has sold 4.4m kg of the 2023 wool clip. This is likely to be around 20% of our supply for the year.

The British Wool price index was up 3% sale on sale and the average greasy price increased to 76.7p per kg.

- Total weight offered 1.019m kg Total weight sold 1.004m kg
- Clearance 98.6%
- Average clean price £1.153 / kg Average greasy price £0.774 / kg
- British Wool Index 1.193, +6.2% sale on sale

The clearances by wool type were as follows;

- Fine wool 100%,
- Romney 100%,
- Medium wool 100%,
- Mule wool 100%,
- Hill wool 100%,
- Mountain wool 94%,
- Lamb 100%.

Price movements for key wool types

Prices where comparable to BW169;

Fine: Hoggs No1 – 7.5% dearer. Hoggs No2 – 5% dearer. Ewes No1 and No2 – 7% dearer. Lt Grey – fully 10% dearer.

Medium: Hoggs No1 – firm. Hoggs No2 – 5% dearer. Ewes No1 – 7% dearer. Ewes No2 – 5% dearer. Naturally discoloured – fully 7.5% dearer. Lt Grey – 5% dearer.

Romney: Ewes No1 – 6% dearer. Ewes No2 – 10% dearer.

Mule: Hoggs No1 – 6% dearer. Ewes No1 – up to 4% dearer. Ewes No2 – 6% dearer. Cotts grades – 6% dearer. Lt Grey – 7.5% dearer.

Cheviots: Hoggs No1 – fully firm. Hoggs No2 – up to 2% dearer. Ewes No1 & No2 – fully 2.5% dearer. Cross Grades – 7.5% dearer.

Hill: Medium No2 – fully 7.5% dearer.

Blackface: Medium No1 – 5% dearer. Fine No1 – 7.5% dearer. No2 – fully 5% dearer. Cotts – up to 10% dearer.

Welsh: No1 – firm. No2 – 2.5% dearer. Coloured Kempy – 4% dearer.

Swaledale: No1 – up to 10% dearer.